

WI-46
Levin T. Walter House
Nanticoke vicinity
Private

c. 1850

Distinguished from most dwellings in the vicinity of Nanticoke with its pedimented gable-front facade, transverse hall, and Greek Revival portico, the Nehemiah P. Douglas house, also known as the Levin T. Walter house, stands on an elevated ridge of land on the north side of Windsor Creek. The two-story, three-bay frame house features a side entrance filled with an eight-panel door topped by a diamond pane transom. Sheltering the front door is the mid nineteenth century pedimented portico that survives with original railings and built-in seats. A mid nineteenth century single story wing extends from the south side of the main block. While rare in Wicomico County's west side, the pedimented temple- or gable-front house was a popular architectural form in Somerset County during the mid nineteenth century. The neoclassical temple front, along with the transverse hall running across the front of the house, appeared in the region during the late eighteenth century and was popularized by Littleton Dennis Teackle in Princess Anne.

Construction of this well-appointed frame house is estimated to have taken place around 1850-60 during the ownership of Nehemiah P. Douglas (1822-1866), a relatively well-off "sailor" who is listed on the U. S. Census for Somerset County in 1850 at age 26 with his 22-year old wife Margaret. Douglas assembled a sizable

plantation on the south side of the Nanticoke River after his marriage to Margaret White on June 16, 1845. By 1866, Nehemiah P. Douglas was dead, and a circuit court settlement ensued to settle his estate. The property was partitioned into several lots, and Lots 1 and 6 were sold to Levin T. Walter in 1872. Twenty-four year old Levin T. Walter and his wife, Emily, are listed in the 1870 U. S. Census for Wicomico County. Listed as a "sailor" at the time, Levin Walter was designated in the census with an estate valued at \$1000 and personal property at \$1500. Levin T. Walter did not live long to enjoy his house for his sudden death around 1878 forced court settlement of his estate. His wife, Emily S. Walter, purchased the house at auction, which included 41 3/4 acres. Emily S. Walter remained on the property until her death in 1919, and in her will she bequeathed equal ownership to her daughters, Lucy J. Walter and E. Sue Walter, "as tenants in common, share and share alike." The property was passed down through Walter family hands until the late 1960s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Levin T. Walter House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-46

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-46

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Nehemiah P. Douglas House Levin T. Walter House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Nanticoke Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Terry L. and Margaret W. Dutton

street & number Route 1, Box 622 telephone no.:

city, town Hamburg state and zip code New Jersey 07419

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 41
liber 1089

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 486

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-46

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically known as the Levin T. Walter house, or the Nehemiah P. Douglas house, this two-story gable-front frame dwelling stands on a small knoll on the west side of Nanticoke Road south of the village of Bivalve, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, transverse hall dwelling faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Dating around 1850-60, the two-story, three-bay transverse hall dwelling is supported on a brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the southwest side of the main block is a single-story, three-bay wing that extends to the rear with a shed roofed addition.

The southeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The eight-panel front door is topped by a diamond-pane transom, and the entire entrance is sheltered by a mid nineteenth century gable-front portico. The portico has a pediment front and is supported on square posts. Stretching between the porch posts is are original mid nineteenth century railings with built-in seats. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows. Finishing the gable end is an enclosed pediment pierced by a pair of quarter round windows. The boxed cornice and trim moldings are covered with vinyl.

The southwest (side) wall is partially covered by the single-story, three-bay wing, which has a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The eight-panel front door repeats the panel design of the front door. The southwest gable end of the wing is marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and two four-pane windows that light the attic. The northwest side of the kitchen wing is covered by a shed roofed addition.

The northwest (rear) wall of the main block has a single exterior brick chimney of modern construction. Six-over-six sash windows light the first, second, and third floors.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-46

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Construction of this well-appointed frame house is estimated to have taken place around 1850-60 during the ownership of Nehemiah P. Douglas (1822-1866), a relatively well-off "sailor" who is listed on the U. S. Census for Somerset County in 1850 at age 26 with his 22-year old wife Margaret.(1) Douglas assembled a sizable plantation on the south side of the Nanticoke River after his marriage to Margaret White on June 16, 1845.(2) By 1866, ehemiah P. Douglas was dead, and a circuit court settlement ensued to settle his estate. The property was partitioned into several lots, and Lots 1 and 6 were sold to Levin T. Walter in 1872.(3) Twenty-four year old Levin T. Walter and his wife, Emily, are listed in the 1870 U. S. Census for Wicomico County. Listed as a "sailor" at the time, Levin Walter was designated in the census with an estate valued at \$1000 and personal property at \$1500.(4) Levin T. Walter did not live long to enjoy his house for his sudden death around 1878 forced court settlement of his estate.(5) His wife, Emily S. Walter purchased the house at auction, which included 41 3/4 acres.(6) Emily S. Walter remained on the property until her death in 1919, and in her will she bequeathed equal ownership to her daughters, Lucy J. Walter and E. Sue Walter, "as tenants in common, share and share alike.(7) The property was passed down through Walter family hands until the late 1960s.(8) The property deserves listing in *Category A* due to its architectural and historical merit.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

Levin T. Walter House, WI-46

Nanticoke vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Ruth T. Dryden, ed. Seventh Census of the United States, Somerset County, Population Schedule, 1850, Delmarva Research Center for History and Culture, Salisbury State University.
- 2 Somerset County marriage record, transcription, Somerset County Courthouse.
- 3 Wicomico County Land Record, TF, Jr. 3/86-87, 3/8/1872, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 4 Ninth Census of the United States, Wicomico County, Population Schedule, 1870, Delmarva Research Center of History and Culture, Salisbury State University.
- 5 Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 3/142, 1/9/1879, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 Wicomico County Will Book, JWD 1/267, Written 2/1/1916, Proved 3/4/1919, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 8 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 702/439, 12/18/1969, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 41

1089/486

Elizabeth W. Buddemeir

to

12/23/1986

Terry L. Dutton
Margaret W. Dutton

JWTS 748/463

Marlowe Ventures, Inc.

to

11/29/1971

Earl W. Buddemeir
Elizabeth W. Buddemeir

JWTS 702/439

Lynn T. Walter, et al; Blanche G. Walter, W. Howard Walter
Gloria B. Walter, Norman W. Walter, Ovabelle Joane Walter

to

12/18/1969

Marlowe Ventures, Inc., State of New York

JWTS 6/9/167

W. Howard Walter
Lynn T. Walter
John E. Jacob, Jr., Executors of the Last Will and Testament
of E. Sue Walter, Will Book JAH 9/52

to

10/14/1965

Lynn T. Walter
W. Howard Walter
Norman W. Walter

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Nanticoke vicinity
Chain of title continued

Page 2

Will Book
JWD 1/267

Last Will and Testament of Emily S. Walter

to

Written
2/1/1916
Proved
3/4/1919

Lucy J. Walter
E. Sue Walter

(The undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ interest of Lucy J. Walter having been devised to the said E. Sue Walter by her Last Will and Testament JAH 5/228)

5th Item I give and devise unto my two daughters Lucy J. Walter and E. Sue Walter as tenants in common share and share alike, all that tract or parcel of land situated in the District, County, and State aforesaid and in the northwesterly side of the County Road heretofore mentioned and binding upon the same land being the balance of the Emily S. Walter homeplace and being shown upon the plat heretofore mentioned as lot number four

Plat drawn by Civil Engineer Lynn Perry, 8/10/1915
EAT 98/540

SPT 3/142

J. H. Travers, Sheriff

to

1/9/1879

Emily S. Walter

By virtue of an executive order issued out of the Circuit Court, 2/10/1878, John Turner, administrator of Francis Ennis vs. Levin T. Walter, the said Trader as sheriff did on the 27th February 1878 offer at public auction at the

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Chain of title continued

Page 3

residence of Levin T. Walter the real estate of the said
Levin T. Walter....Emily S. Walter, the highest bidder

41 3/4 acres south side of public road leading from
Windsor's Cove and described as Lot No. 1 in a deed
From Isaac D. Jones and Robert Walter to the said
Levin T. Walter, 3/28/1872, TF Jr. 3/86-87

TF, Jr. 3/86-87

Isaac D. Jones
Robert Walter, trustees

to

Levin T. Walter

3/8/1872

Decree of Circuit Court of Wicomico County, 10/8/1868

William H. Vickery & others vs. William J. Langrall,
John Douglas & others, Lots Number 1 and 6 as
described on the plat and survey made by C. C.
Donoho, surveyor, Lot No. 1, sold for \$1,105,
including a right of way over the private road leading
from the dwelling house to the public road, as it then
stood, and a tenancy in common with the other
purchasers of the marsh belonging to the said Nehemiah
P. Douglas, at the time of his death; and Lot No. 1
containing forty-one & three quarters acres of land....
also according to separate plat made at the same time
by the surveyor & delivered to the said Levin T. Walter
with this deed Lot No. 6 containing 14 and 3/4 acres
of woodland, \$380, the two lots of land situated on the
Nanticoke River in Wicomico County.

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Chain of title continued

Page 4

Somerset County
Land Record
WP 1/122

Elizabeth E. Bayley

to

8/14/1845

Nehemiah P. Douglas

\$125 south side of Nanticoke River 14 ½ acres

WP 2/126

Anne P. Barnes, Prince Georges County, Maryland

to

3/10/1847

Nehemiah Douglas

Wallis' Adventure, which said tract was the residence
of the late Mrs. Anne Morton

WP 4/390

Levin Woolford, trustee

to

11/6/1849

John Turner
Nehemiah P. Douglas

Land described in Chancery Case

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Nanticoke vicinity
Chain of title continued

Page 5

WP 5/283

John Turner

to

5/18/1850

Nehemiah Douglas

\$350.00 "Old Castel" and "New Castel" conveyed
to Turner and Douglas by Levin Woolford, Esq.,
trustee, to sell real estate of James Gordon, deceased

LW 7/57

Isaac D. Jones

to

3/9/1861

Nehemiah P. Douglas

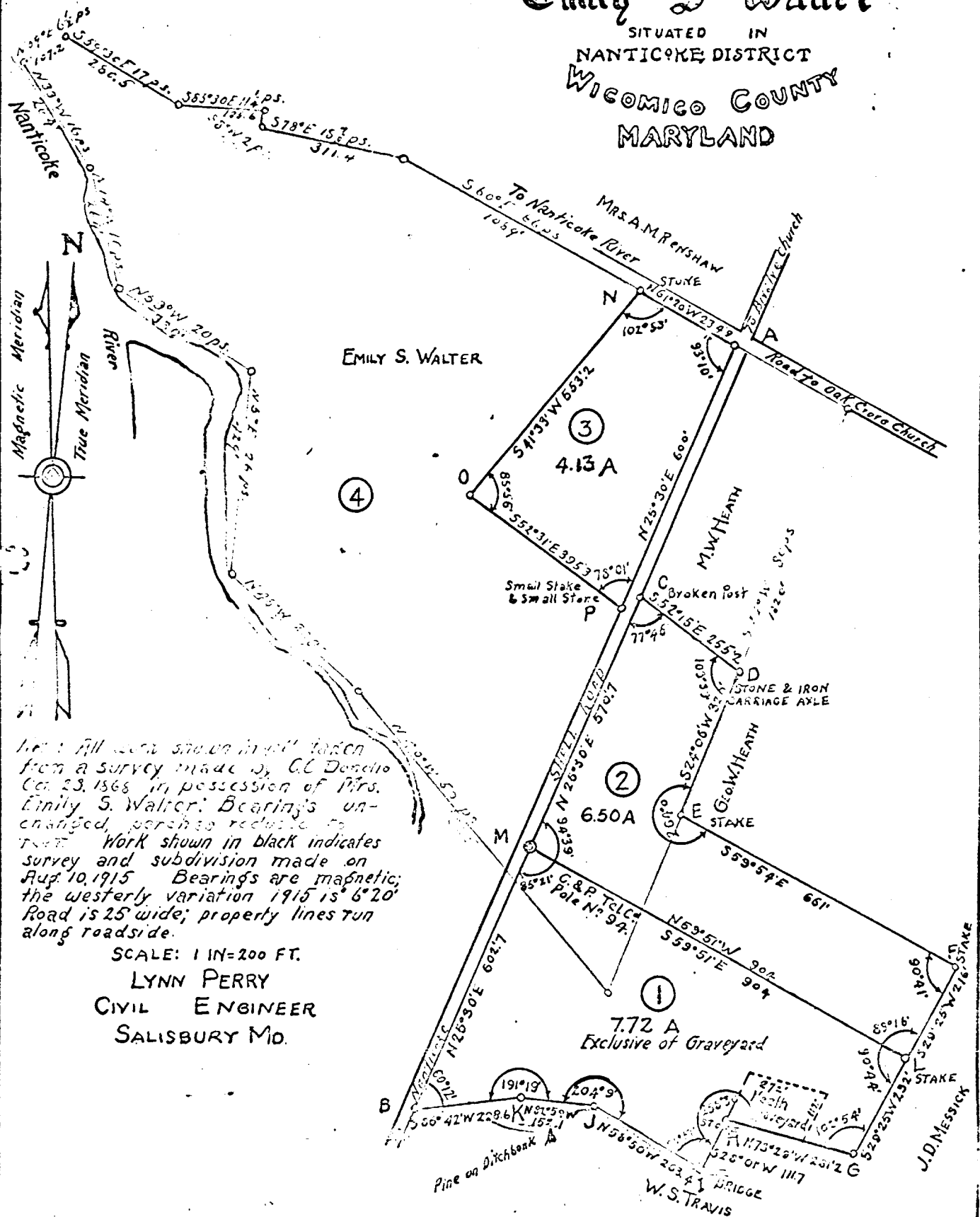
Decree of Circuit Court 11/5/1856

"Covington's Delight" 377 acres situate on the
Nanticoke River

Nehemiah Douglas married Margaret White on June 16, 1845

40

SURVEY AND SUBDIVISION
OF A
FARM
BELONGING TO
Emily S. Walter
SITUATED IN
NANTICOKE DISTRICT
WICOMICO COUNTY
MARYLAND



TYASKINDist. No. 3
WICOMICO CO.**TYASKIN DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

W. J. CATLIN, M.D., Physician and Surgeon. All calls promptly attended to. Res. and Office at Belgrade Farm. P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

W. D. HEATH, Dealer in Groceries, Hardware, Tobacco, Liquor, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

NOAH T. TILGEMAN, Proprietor of "Tyaskin Mills," Manufacturer of Corn-meal, Hominy, and all kinds of Lumber. Custom work done in sawing and grinding.

J. E. B. HORNER, Owner of the fine Sloop "James Wesley." All kinds of freighting done to and from any point on the "Chesapeake Bay," or its tributaries. Especial Attention to the purchase and freighting of Oysters. Res. and P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

J. W. WINGATE, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Confectionery, Wines, Whiskies, Brandies and Rum, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store, at Whitehaven.

WARE WINRIGHT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c., and all goods usually kept in a country store. Whitehaven P. O.

W. G. & J. Q. TILGEMAN, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Calfery, Tobacco, Cigars, Notions, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

JOHN WILLING AND CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all articles usually kept in a country store. Nanticoke P. O.

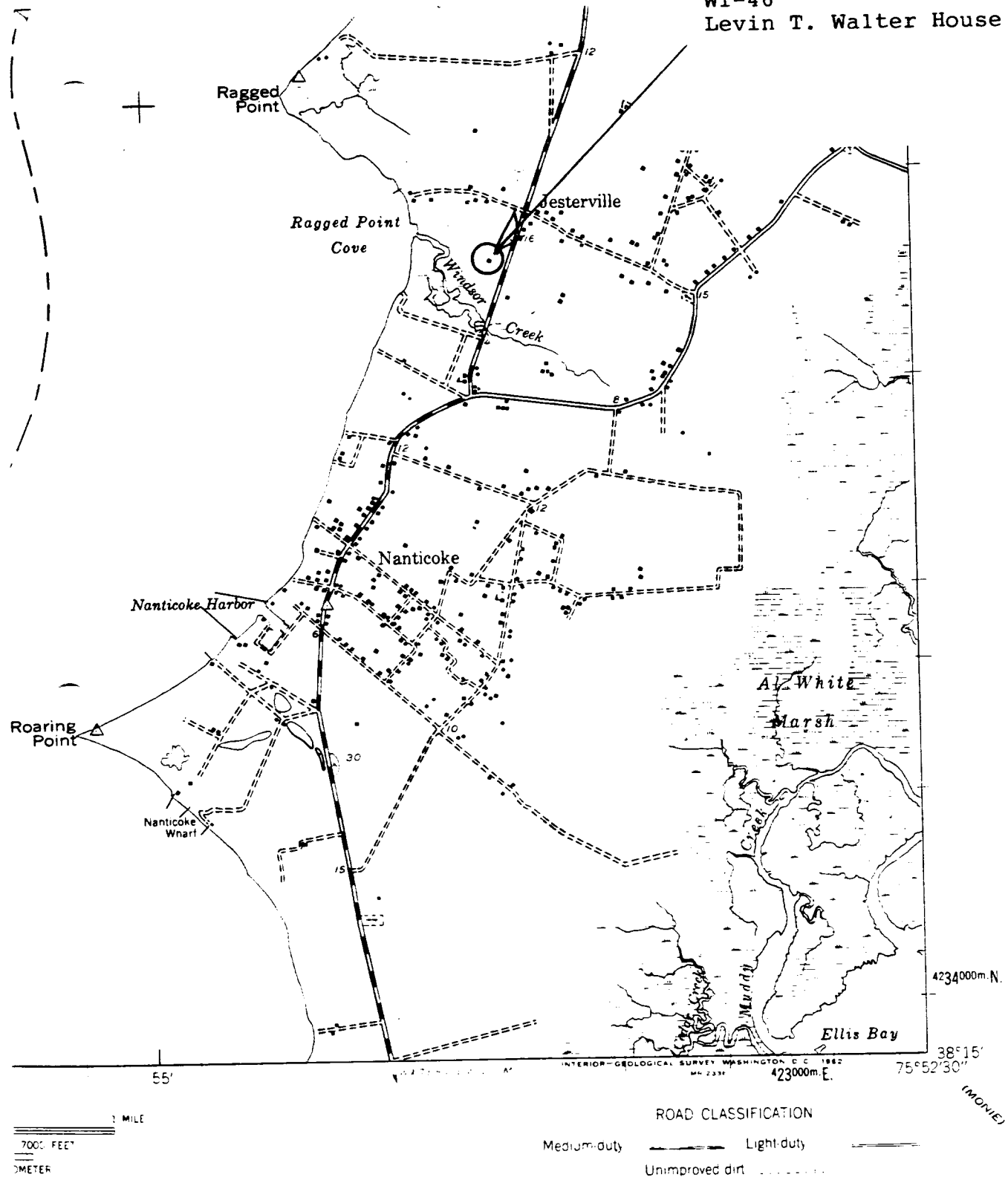
S. A. LANGRALL, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. Store near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

J. O. TURNER AND SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes, &c. Nanticoke, Md.

J. A. CONNAWAY, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res. near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

J. E. ELLIOTT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Extracts, Patent Medicines, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a first class country store. Store at Green Hill.

WI-46
Levin T. Walter House



NANTICOKE, MD.

SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942

QUEST



11-44

Levee to Shiloh House

NANTUCKET 1000 ft. N. of Shiloh House

1000 - 2100 ft.

6/105, 1000 ft. N. of Shiloh House

N. of Shiloh House



VI-46

LEVIN T. W. 1900

112-46-24 1800-1810, 1820-1830

500-500 1800-1810

6/92, 1000-1010, 1020-1030

1000-1010, 1020-1030



W1-46

LEON T. DORRIS, JR.

HARRISON VILLAGE, WINDY HILLS, N.Y.

RECEIVED 10-10-1964

9/9/64, 10/10/64, 10/10/64

W1-46, 10/10/64, 10/10/64